

Game Group Completes Extensive Land Exchange

THE STATE Game Commission yesterday concluded the largest land exchange in its history, involving over 7,000 acres in Dauphin County.

The exchange, made in an effort to serve the best interests of the general public, gained for sportsmen thousands of acres of valuable land which will be used for public hunting.

Completion of the transaction also will enable the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company to create a pumped storage generating project designed to help meet peak demands for electrical power.

PP&L deeded to the Game Commission 5,469.2 acres in Middle Paxton, Wayne, Rush and Jefferson Townships. In exchange, PP&L received a deed for 1,702.2 acres in Middle Paxton and East Hanover Townships.

TRACTS ACQUIRED by the Game Commission are along a seven-mile stretch on both sides of Pennsylvania Route 325, west of the City reservoir property in Clarks Creek Valley between Third and Peters Mountains. The acquisition includes a fine trout stream.

LAND CONVEYED by the Game Commission is located at the juncture of Sharp and Stony Mountains and along Stony Creek Valley north of the Edward Martin Military Reservation.

PP&L, after intensive investigation of sites throughout the region, determined that the location on State Game Lands 211 was the only suitable site for its power project. Had the exchange not been made, sportsmen unquestionably would have lost the hunting acreage gained to private development.

In addition to the exchange of land, the Game Commission will receive \$5,000 per year when the pumped storage project becomes operational and continuing for the life of the project. If the project is ever discontinued, land conveyed by the Game Commission will be returned to the Commission.

THE ACREAGE acquired by the Commission is being incorporated into State Game Lands 211 and will remain in Commission ownership, regardless of the future of the pumped storage project.

After construction of the facility is completed, only about 500 of the 1,700 acres will be closed to sportsmen. The other 1,200 acres will remain under PP&L ownership, but will be open to public hunting.

Two reservoirs and a pumped storage station will be built by the private utility. A large, lower-level reservoir will be located on Stony Creek, and a smaller reservoir will be constructed in a high valley at the junction of Sharp and Stony Mountains.

The lower reservoir will be open to fishing, and the utility plans to build piers on the reservoir for the convenience of fishermen, as well as other public recreational use facilities. Annual stocking of fish in the lower reservoir and parts of Stony Creek is also planned by the company through arrangements with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.